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24 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Assistant Director, National Estimates

THRU : Assistant Director, Office of Research and Reports

THRU : Chief, Geographic Research, Office of Research and Reports

SUBJECT : Contribution to NIE 12.6-38, The Outlook in Poland

REFERENCE : Terms of Reference: Memorandum of 16 June 1958

The following is submitted as a partial answer to the question asked under IV-D-3 of the terms of reference for NIE 12.6-38: What are the prospects, if any, for a change in Poland's policy concerning its Western borders?

Judging from Polish achievements in and plans for the so-called Western Territories, there will be no change in Poland's policy regarding the Oder-Neisse line.

The Poles regard the Western Territories as an integral part of Poland and depend on the agricultural and industrial resources of these territories in the development of the country into an economically stable nation. A primary objective of the postwar development program in the Western Territories has been to transform the area into an essential part of Poland and thereby to preclude any revision of the western border. Vigorous efforts have been made to evacuate the German population of the area and resettle it with ethnic Poles and to reestablish those economic activities whose outputs would approximate prewar levels but which would be oriented toward the needs of Poland's

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postwar economy. At the present time, the population of the Western Territories is predominantly Polish and numbers approximately 6 million, which is 1 million less than before World War II. Production from many branches of heavy industry has approached or exceeded prewar levels. The 1957 hard coal output of 30 million tons in the Western Territories approximated the prewar production and represented almost 33 percent of the total Polish coal production. Coke production in the Western Territories has increased from a little more than 3 million tons in 1938 to 5.6 million tons in 1957, which is 53 percent of the total Polish coke output. The present electric power output of 6.7 billion KWH constitutes an increase of 75 percent over the 1938 output. Expansion of the iron and steel industry has resulted in a substantial rise over the prewar production of pig iron, which was 315,000 tons, and an increase of more than a 100 percent in the raw steel output, which is currently estimated at 1.2 million tons. Notable increases have also been made in the machine tool and chemical industries, whose present productions are several times greater than before World War II. Light industry and agriculture, however, still lag far behind their prewar status, reflecting the neglect of these activities under the pre-Gomulka regime. Efforts since 1956 have been directed toward stimulating a more rational land-use program under private ownership and toward reactivating many of

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the consumer-oriented industrial enterprises that had been abandoned. A large number of government committees, academic institutes, and local groups are currently cooperating actively with the national organization, The Society For the Development of the Western Territories, in planning and implementing projects and programs that will revive sound economic growth in the neglected and depressed areas within the Western Territories.

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Acting Chief, Geography Division

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